(c) Only one post of Presiding Officers, Industrial Tribunal remained vacant during the period from 1-10-1985 to 30-11-1985.

Child workers in organised and unorganised sectors

2377. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of child workers working in organised and unorganised sectors of the industry, their percentage to total population, total work force and total child population;

(b) the industries which have more concentration of child labour; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to combat the menace of child labour?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) There are 13.6 million owrking children (1981 census) of which 91 per cent are in the unorganised sector (main workers). Percentage of child labour to total population is 1.99; to total work force is 3.03; and to total child population is 5.01 per cent.

(b) No comprehensive study nas been conducted which reveals the industry-wise concentration of child labour.

(c) The incidence of child labour in our country is mainly due to socio economic compulsions.

There are a number of legislations which prohibit the employment of children below 14 years in certain occupations/processes and regulate their conditions of work in other areas with a view to protect them for exploitation at work and also to improve their working conditions. The National Policy on Child Labour, 1987 has been formulated which *inter alia,* envisages project based plan of action in areas of concentration of child labour and focussing on general development programme for the benefit of child labour. Financial assistance to voluntary organisations is also provided to take action-oriented projects.

Enforcement of child labour legislation is principally the responsibility of the State Governments/Administration of Union Territories. They have been addressed from time to time to ensure strict enforcement of the laws. With a view to further strengthen the enforcement Machinery, 50 per cent financial assistance is given to State Governments under a centrally sonsored plan scheme.

Cheatng of workers going abroad by registered agents

2378. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that workers desirous to go abroad, have been cheated by the registered Agents;

(b) if so, what is the number of complaints received by Government against the registered agents during the last two years and the number of agents who have been punished thereof; and

(c) what efforts are being made by Government to safeguard the interests of workers seeking employment abroad?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) Complaints have been received regarding cheating of workers by registered and unregistered recruiting agents. 92 complants were received during the yaers 1990 and 1991 against registered recruiting agents. Registration certificates of seven recruiting agents were suspended.

(c) The Emigration Act, 1983 and the Rules framed thereunder are intended to safeguard the interests of workers seeking employment abroad.

Pending cases in labour courts

2379. SHRI GOPAL SINH G. SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases are pending with the la-

bour courts for the last 12 years and due to which the families of the affected persons have become victims of starvation; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the efforts being made by Government to provide relief to the concerned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Infrastructural support to rural labour to eradicate exploitation and indebtedness

2380. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Rural Labour has confessed that neither the evploitative money lending system nor the perpetual indebtendness among rural labour can be eradicated by Government's present credit policy; and

(b) if so, what are the measures planned by Government for creating infrastructural support for the rural labour?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) The National Commission on Rural Labour have observed that neither the traditional money-lending system nor the incidence of indebtedness among rural labour families can be made to disappear through credit policy working in isolation.

(b) The Planning Commission is already laying emphasis in the Eighth Plan on employment growth and better earnings in rural non-farm sector through promotion of industry in rural areas. Provision of training/skills, technology, marketing assistance and credit to rural non-agricultural activity has been considered essential.

Consumption credit of Rs. 1000/- is being made available to weaker sections-small farmers, rural artisans etc. in the case of IRDP beneficiaries, this credit is given in the nature of working capital.

In order to make institutional credit more accessible to rural households, a multi-agency system comprising of Co-operative Baks, commercial Banks and regional rural banks has been adopted to disburse such credit. Refinancing facilities are extended by NABARD for the promotion of small scale, cottage and village industry, handicrafts and allied economic activities. Subsidies are extended to tribal fish farmers through agencies like Fish Farmers' Development Agency. RBI have issued directions that collateral securities by way of mortgage of land etc. or third party guarantee may not to be insisted upon for term loans upto Rs. 10,000/-

VIII National Safety in Mines Conference

2381. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment have received requests from different quarters to hold the VIII National Safety in Mines Conference

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) Requests have been received for holding the Conference on Safety in Mines. At present, for reasons of economy there is a ban on holding of conferences. In the circumstances, the proposal to hold the above Conference is under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Conversion of provident fund into pension Scheme

2382. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: